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argues somewhat in this fashion: "Liquor is the cause of a great many prosecutions; there are a great many liquor laws being made every day. A treatise on liquor is, therefore, a practical treatise. It will not be a theoretical classic like a work on equity, or contracts, or procedure, or indictment." In this argument, however, it is forgotten that the working lawyer must know the principles of contracts, of procedure and indictment, and that the law has not been created for the sole purpose of settling disputes in which liquor or any other similar commodity may be involved; that there is not a law of liquor as distinguished from all other laws. And thus we venture to predict that one who attempts to gain a working knowledge of all but one of the subjects treated in the work before us would fail of his purpose no matter how closely he read the text. A work on the abuse of intoxicating liquors treated as a crime would be of use, provided it left untouched the subject of indictments and constitutional law. We would then have a treatise on a statutory crime. Thus Chapter I, on the definition and construction of terms used in liquor laws; and Chapters XVI, XVII and XVIII, dealing with crimes and offenses under the liquor laws, are of substantial value. The rest of the work is valueless to the very person for whom it was written—the working lawyer. If any publisher or textbook writer thinks he could argue on the subject of what is a sufficient indictment under the liquor laws, or on the constitutionality of a liquor law, with only the preparation which a study of the chapters on this subject in Mr. BLACK's book would give, he is greatly mistaken. In fact, concerning the rest of the work, besides the chapters we have mentioned, we can only regret that so much time and conscientious, painstaking effort have been expended in attempting to accomplish the impossible.

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LEADING CASES UPON THE LAW OF TORTS. Selected by GEORGE CHASE, LL.B., Professor of Law in the New York Law School. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1892.

The title of this work is somewhat misleading. The term "Leading Case" conveys to the mind a case which

has been the first to enunciate principles now universally recognized. The cases selected by Mr. CHASE are, as he himself says: "Object lessons, showing the application of principles." As such, the cases given have been selected, not for their historical value, but for the clearness with which they have applied long settled rules of law to particular facts. Hence the volume comprises modern cases to a large extent. As a work of this kind, it is one of the best we have seen. Each case is prefaced by a statement of the principal of law the application of which is illustrated. A report of the case follows, with syllabus, statement of the case and opinion of the court in full. In many cases the syllabi, etc., are taken from the West Publishing Company's reporter system. The size of the book and double column is also taken from those reports. The latter feature, while detracting greatly from the appearance of the page, makes it much easier for the eye, though the close printing is to be regretted. We think it was a mistake to print the opinion in full when part does not relate to the subject of torts. For instance, on page 4, a column is devoted to a discussion on the law in England relative to ancient lights, and on page 9, Judge MORTON entertains us with a disquisition on the question whether the plaintiff is an insolvent. All this has nothing to do with torts, and might with advantage have been omitted. Apart, however, from these trifling defects, the work as prefixed by an analysis of the rules of law illustrated, and supplemented by a full index of the syllabi of the reported cases, is a complete illustration of the law of torts as it exists to-day. The work is primarily intended for students, but lawyers desiring to look up a point of law, without thumbing over big digests and searching for the reports of cases cited, will find their labor considerably lightened by keeping a volume of Mr. CHASE's "Selected Cases" in their library. In fact we are compelled to admit that the value of such a work to the practicing lawyer far exceeds its educational value. Some of those engaged in legal instruction believe that the way to teach law is to state a principle and then show its application to facts. To

all such a work like the present as a schoolroom tool will find ready favor. For our part, however, and taking our own experience as a guide, we believe that the principles of law are best understood by a review of those cases which illustrate the development of principles. Believing this, AMES's "Cases on Torts" appeal to the student side of us much more than the present volume. We there see the sources of the law, how it has arisen, and in what direction we may look for its future development. Mr. CHASE has given us an instantaneous photograph of the law as it exists to-day. He petrifies that which is ever changing and developing. We do not think this is the way either to understand legal principles or to learn how to apply them to the facts of new cases. These remarks, however, must not be taken to detract from the praise which is justly due Mr. CHASE for having accomplished in such an admirable manner the task which he has set before him.

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## BOOKS RECEIVED.

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**PENNSYLVANIA COLONIAL CASES.** The Administration of Law in Pennsylvania Prior to A.D. 1700, as shown in the Cases Decided and in the Court Proceedings. By Hon. SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER, LL.D. Philadelphia: Rees, Welsh & Co., 1892.

**AMERICAN PROBATE REPORTS, VOL. VII, WITH NOTES AND REFERENCES.** By CHARLES FISK BEACH, JR., of the New York Bar. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co., 1892.

**A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF INSURANCE: FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT AND MARINE.** Second edition. With a Selection of Leading Illustrative Cases and an Appendix of Statutes and Forms. By GEORGE RICHARDS, of the New York Bar and Lecturer on Insurance Law in the School of Law of Columbia College. New York and Albany: Banks & Brothers, 1892.

**BENJAMIN'S TREATISE ON THE LAW OF SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.** Sixth American edition, with American Notes by EDMUND H. and SAMUEL C. BENNETT. Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1892.

**A MANUAL OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.** By HENRY C. CHAPMAN, M.D., Professor of Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence in Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1892.